

### ABSTRACT

A method of securing a retaining clip for an intervertebral disc replacement device comprising the steps of removably engaging the retaining clip to a first end of a first applicator arm of an applicator having said first applicator arm and a second applicator arm, inserting the applicator into a patient treatment area having the intervertebral disc replacement device installed therein, placing the hook flange of the body member of the retaining clip over the at least one flange of the intervertebral disc replacement device, applying a closing force to the first and second applicator arms such that the hook flange securely engages the at least one flange of the intervertebral disc replacement device and a portion of the at least one lateral flange extends over a portion of the bone screw, disengaging the first applicator arm from the retaining clip and removing the applicator from the patient treatment area.